

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Trans](#)[What's new at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.](#)[View this email in your browser](#)**Newsletter #90:****What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.**

Hello from Oak Park! I'm so happy to be back with my family now. Work hasn't gotten any less busy but it is nice to be home. The auction season is more busy than ever. There has been a lot of wonderful material available in the auctions in the last months. I've been seeing some great pedigreed material come back into circulation. The coin market seems to be very strong and hammers are healthy. Next week continues with some very interesting auctions.

Here is what is happening this week:

Maison Palumbo Geneve Auction 17 (October 20)

I mentioned this auction last week but it is worth mentioning again. The ancients portion of the auction is small at 118 pieces, but there are some very impressive long pedigrees. The Greek section has some very rare types but I almost found the Roman section to be more impressive. A big selection of high quality Roman aurei. I will be available for bidding but you need to get in touch very soon if you need my help as the auction is just around the corner on the 20th.

G&M E-Auction 259 (October 20-21)

Gorny & Mosch just completed several auctions starting on October 15th. Over the course of two days, G&M will auction off an additional 1,856 coins. There are several budget friendly deals to be had and it is worth your time to peruse the material. G&M has a great online platform that is user friendly. I'm happy to give advice if you'd like for this auction and I'm available if you need my assistance with bidding.

Bertolami E-Live Auction 63 - Numismatic Literature (October 23)

This is the fourth part of the Bertolami literature auction in which 662 books and catalogs will be offered. There has been some difficulty to acquire titles available in the Bertolami literature auctions. My recommendation is to type in the book that you are searching for in the search bar if you don't want to go through every book offered. This is a great way to find missing essential titles from your library.

CNG E-Auction 431 (October 24)

CNG has auction 431 with 711 lots closing on October 24th. There are some very nice pieces that may or may not be affordable. CNG auctions tend to be very competitive so getting a super deal can be difficult. Not to say that one can't get a good deal but you have to watch closely to find pieces that have "fallen through the cracks". I'm available for bidding if you need my help.

Sincona Auctions 49-53 (October 23-25)

The Zurich auction house Sincona in Zurich mailed several catalogs that arrived to my house while I was away in Europe. The majority of coins will likely not appeal to my customers but I wanted to point out the auctions as they really do a spectacular job of cataloguing their material. Wonderful hard-bound catalogs with very interesting material is offered. As I buy more world coin material I find their auctions very impressive but this is still a small part of my business. The one catalog that I found really great is their Auction 50 catalog titled Sincona Jubilee Auction. This small catalog of 233 coins is a tribute to several dealers with auction houses in Europe and abroad. A heartfelt introduction explains that the tiny industry of dealers, while competitors (termed "friendly rivals") essentially work together to help keep our the business of coins vital. I like the concept of Sincona celebrating their 50th catalog by sharing their success with other dealers by having them consign coins for this catalog. A very nice touch indeed. As I mentioned, most of the coins are world but it is worth your time to take a peek in the catalogs. Also, please get in touch with me if you want a copy of their catalogs. I have them and will gladly mail them out to you free of charge. I'm also available for bidding if you need my help.

Morton & Eden Auction 96 (October 24)

I had the opportunity to view and photograph most of the 100 ancient coins that are being auctioned on October 24th in London. The 50 Greek coins are absolutely stunning and the pedigrees are quite good as well. I'm registered for the auction so please get in touch soon if you would like representation.

Upcoming Trade Shows

From Nov 29-Dec 1 I will be attending the long awaited San Francisco Bourse. After the untimely death of dealer Tom Cederlind the show had no serious representation. This has now changed and the show will take place after an absence of 3 years. I've sent out postcards about this show to some of my customers. I hope if you live near San Francisco or if you just want a weekend getaway that you'll consider coming. San Francisco is a small venue but a fun show traditionally. I hope to see some of you there.



Coin of the Week

<https://www.shannaschmidt.com/greek-coins/sicily-syracuse-c-510-485-bc>

SICILY, SYRACUSE. c. 510-485 BC

AR Tetradrachm, 16.97g (23mm, 5h). SVRA Slow quadriga driven r. by clean-shaven charioteer, wearing long chiton and holding reins in each hand. Rev. Head of Arethusa l., hair curling back from forehead with dotted parallel lines, within circle sunk at centre of a swastika developed from the quartering of an incuse square.

Price: \$35,500

Sicilian coinage first began in the final decades of the sixth century, probably around 530/25 B.C. It made its first appearance at four mints: the Chalcidian colonies of Zancle (later named Messana), Himera, and Naxos, and also at the city of Selinus, a colony of Megara Hyblaea. Despite the common Chalcidian heritage of three of these cities, the coinage of each was strikingly different from the others the standards in use at Zancle, Himera, and Naxos were based on a third of the Chalcidian stater, while the Selinunte didrachm was of Attic-Euboic weight; the reverses of both Himera and Selinus employed incuse squares divided into alternately raised and sunken triangles, while Zancle used a schematised pattern with a cockle shell in the centre and Naxos used a two-type design. Thus when Syracuse followed its Sicilian neighbours and began striking its own coinage c. 510 B.C., it is not surprising that they chose to follow no one, decidedly taking their own unique path. The first coins minted at Syracuse were tetradrachms, struck on the Attic standard of approximately 17.20g. The obverse type was of purely Syracusan origin, and depicted a male charioteer driving a quadriga with the city ethnic above. The style is severe with sharp relief planes and recall the style from certain early Macedonian mints (indeed, as a rule, hoards of Sicilian coins are not found outside Sicily, yet hoards containing coins from Acanthus in Macedon have been found at Syracuse). This was the period before the tyrants, a time when Syracuse was ruled by an oligarchy of wealthy citizens. These ruling aristocrats would have enjoyed equestrian pursuits, especially the great chariot contests at Delphi and Olympia, and it is therefore thought that the chariot design reflects these interests. The reverse of the very first

tetradrachm issue is a simple four-part incuse square design, the sections divided by thin crossing lines, and was copied from the same Acanthian (and perhaps other Macedonian) tetradrachms that served as inspiration for the obverse. Soon after this very rare first issue, the reverse was modified to include a small central medallion containing the head of Arethusa, a local fountain goddess, facing to the left, her strong and logical archaic features of characteristically Dorian style. The superimposition of a medallion on the reverse had already occurred at Athens, the coins of which apparently served as inspiration for this design element appearing at Syracuse. Throughout the fifth century, Syracuse continued to prosper and the city soon came to predominate over the regional affairs of Sicily. The unique chariot type and the tetradrachm denomination of Attic standard first adopted at Syracuse would, in time, become the principal type and denomination throughout the whole of the island, and was even widely copied by the Carthaginians at their Punic mints during the fourth century B.C. (This write-up was taken from an NAC 96, October 1996, lot 1020).

References: SNG Lloyd 1277. Boehringer 27. Rizzo pl. XXXIV, 1-2

Grade: Near EF, lightly toned, a scratch below the exergue on the rev. and some faint double striking on the horse's head and hind quarters but a very attractive and well struck obverse.

gk1250

<https://www.shannaschmidt.com/greek-coins/sicily-syracuse-c-510-485-bc>

If you are interested in this coin please click the link above or email me at shanna@shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!
Shanna

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